

THE  
**ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER,**  
 UNDER THE SANCTION OF  
 THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

Vol. 12. No. 1.—New Series.] JANUARY 1, 1864.

{Price Fourpence Stamped  
 { Threepence Unstamped

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**Monthly Summary.**

**DOMESTIC.**—The subjoined is the record for November and December, the summary for the former month having been excluded for want of space.

The Committee of the *British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society* have addressed a Memorial to Viscount Palmerston against the recognition of the Southern Confederacy, and another to Earl Russell on the subject of the African slave-trade to Cuba. The text of these was given in our last issue.

In answer to the Memorials which have been sent in to Earl Russell relating to the slave-trade from the Polynesian islands to Peru, his lordship states that Her Majesty's Government having taken steps for effectually checking it, and the Peruvian Government has intimated that all those natives who have been conveyed to Peru, in this illicit manner, shall be restored to their homes.

A fusion has taken place of the organizations in Manchester favourable to a recognition of the South, under the one designation of the *Manchester Southern Independence Association*. Mr. J. Spence, (the S. of the *Times*, and late Confederate Financial Agent in Liverpool,) has been engaged by the new Association, as a paid lecturer, and has delivered an address in Glasgow. Other officials of the Association are also notoriously connected with the South.

The *Liverpool Post* considers itself in a position to state that Lord Lyons, in a despatch to Earl Russell from Washington, announces that the war in America will be terminated within the next three months. The Confederates being in the greatest extremities, will have speedily to propose an

armistice. In their informant they say they have the fullest possible confidence, and that possibly Mr. Lincoln's proclamation has reference to the facts on which Lord Lyons grounded his conclusion.

In consequence of a communication from the *Glasgow Emancipation Society*, the Customs' authorities at Glasgow have seized a screw-steamer, called the *Pampero*, alleged to be intended for the Confederates, and Her Majesty's gun-boat *Goldfinch* has been sent to prevent the vessel from leaving the port.

On Wednesday evening, Nov. 25th, a large screw-steamer left Sheerness, dropped down as far as the *Tongue* light, and, as soon as the tide served, steamed across to Calais, where, upon being boarded by the Customs, she hoisted Confederate colours, and gave her name as the *Rappahannock*. She was formerly in the British service, and known as the *Victor*, and was sold by the Admiralty to her present proprietors. Further particulars will be found in another column. It is satisfactory to know that the Government has dismissed from its employ all the parties who were on board when she left, and that the men belonging to the naval reserve, who are on board the *Alabama* and other Confederate pirates, will be deprived of all pay and pensions.

**AFRICA.**—The health of Lagos was good, but trade dull. A deputation of native merchants and traders are attempting to put a stop to the war, and are hopeful of success. It is stated that the local merchants and traders have in their hands about 1000 bales of cotton and 40,000l. worth of general produce.

A steamer, name and nation unknown, but whose successful visits to the coast had rendered her notorious, had succeeded in leaving Godomé with 1022 slaves. At the

time of the shipment the Fetish men closed the road from Whydah to Godomé, so as to cut off all communication between the two places, until the slaves were shipped.

**Madagascar.**—According to the *Cernéen*, a Mauritius paper, the Government of Madagascar has proposed, in a counter-treaty, to Commander Dupré, of the French navy, in answer to his *ultimatum*, that the export of slaves shall be for ever prohibited, and that vessels which bring slaves for sale are not to be admitted into any Malagase port.

**FRANCE.**—The Government of the Emperor has informed Mr. Dayton, the United-States' Minister in Paris, that the *autorisation*, for the construction of certain vessels of war, now proved to be building in France for the Confederates, and for certain cannon and munitions for their armament, has been withdrawn, and that the parties engaged in the business have been warned of the danger of prosecuting their work.

There is no foundation, either, for the rumour, set afloat by Southern sympathizers, that the Imperial Government has signed a treaty with the South for the cession of Louisiana and Texas, nor has it altered its views respecting the recognition of the Confederacy.

**UNITED STATES.**—Public attention has been directed chiefly to the movements of the armies of the Potomac and of Tennessee. Our readers are already in possession of the news from those parts up to the most recent dates, but which we now condense for our own record.

**Congressional.**—Congress assembled on the 7th December. The House of Representatives elected as Speaker the Hon. Schmyler Colfax, Republican. On the 9th the President's message was read. The chief points of the address are given in another column.

Mr. Arnold, of Illinois, gave notice of a Bill to prohibit Slavery in the Territories, including the President's Proclamation.

The House of Representatives has passed a resolution by 93 to 64 that the war should be prosecuted so long as the rebels are found in arms.

**The War.**—Nothing decisive has occurred in Virginia. After long, weary watching, and many feints, marches, and counter-marches, on the part of both generals, Meade commenced an advance on the 26th November, and in two days crossed the Rapidan in three divisions, which converged on Orange Court House. He experienced no resistance. The alleged purpose of the advance was to engage General Lee's attention, and to prevent him from operating against Burnside. During the advance the divisions of Generals French and Sedgwick carried the Confederate redoubts at the Rappahan-

nock Railroad Bridge and Kelly's Ford, capturing 1800 prisoners and seven guns, but losing 400 men. Lee was compelled to fall back to his former entrenchments, and brought up at Gordonsville. Up to that date Meade had captured 4000 prisoners, 2600 stand of small arms, 14 guns, and 1 brigade train. On the 1st of December one division of Meade's army occupied Fredericksburg, which the Confederates had evacuated. Finally, having come up to the position which General Lee had taken up at Mine Run, and a reconnoissance in force having disclosed the formidable obstacles in the way of a successful attack, General Meade resolved upon retreating. This he did, and having once more crossed the Rapidan, both armies are understood to have gone into winter quarters.

The operations in Tennessee had been more successful. Rosencranz had been replaced by Grant. It will be remembered, that after the battle of Chickamauga, the Confederates massed their forces, with a view to drive Rosecranz out of Chattanooga. Burnside had been detached to operate against Knoxville, and against him, Lee had sent Longstreet from Bragg's command. On the 23rd of November, Hooker and Sherman attacked the Confederates under Bragg, and after severe fighting, their strong position on Missionary Ridge and Look-out Mountain was carried. Bragg's rout was complete. The Federals captured forty pieces of artillery, a large quantity of small arms, much camp equipage, and 2000 prisoners, including 200 officers. The defeated Confederate General withdrew towards Dalton (Ga.), a strong column following him up. It seemed probable that the Federals would direct their attention to strengthening their position at Chattanooga, and as soon as possible commence operations to recover Georgia to the Union.

General Burnside had also succeeded in repelling Longstreet, who, immediately upon the defeat of Bragg, (since superseded,) felt himself compelled to raise the siege of Knoxville, where Burnside was beleaguered, reinforcements having also reached Burnside. He had been before the city from the 18th of November to the 4th December. The Confederate General had fallen back towards Virginia. He lost 600 men.

General Banks had proceeded with an expedition into Texas, and taken Fort Esperanza, Matagorda Bay, capturing ten guns. The occupation of the Bay gives the Federals the control of Central and Western Texas, and of all the important points except Galveston.

Matters at Charleston remained in *statu quo*. The bombardment of the outlying

forts, and the shelling of the city had been continued, with interruptions, but without decisive result.

President Jefferson Davis had visited the Charleston defences, and has expressed his opinion that Charleston never could be taken.

The Confederates have been repulsed in an attack upon Pine's Bluff, Arkansas.

*Miscellaneous.*—President Lincoln had been attacked with small-pox, but was fast recovering. He had issued a proclamation that, in consequence of receiving reliable information that the insurgents were retreating from Tennessee, under circumstances rendering it probable that the Federals cannot hereafter be dislodged from there, and esteeming this to be of high national consequence, he recommends the people to return public thanks. The President had issued a call for 300,000 volunteers. He had pardoned General Gantt, of Arkansas, and returned him his property, except the negroes, under his new amnesty proclamation.

Mr. Seward has made a speech, asserting that there could be no peace until Mr. Lincoln was President of the whole United States. He anticipated the early submission of the insurgents. There was no State that had not been made stronger, and no citizen that had not been made richer by the war.

General Butler had issued a proclamation, saying, "The recruitment of coloured troops having become a purpose of the Government, and as the best use during the war for able-bodied coloured men both for themselves and their country is to be soldiers, Government officers must not employ negroes to work at higher wages than soldiers' pay. Every possible provision will be made for negroes."

The Rev. H. W. Beecher had reached Brooklyn safely. In a public address, he declared that the great intelligent minds and labouring classes in England favoured the North: all others wished well to the South. He recommended America to observe a friendly policy towards England. He mentioned the Duke of Argyll, Earl Granville, Lord Carlisle, and Messrs. Bright and Cobden, as influential friends of the North.

The Republicans have a large majority everywhere. General Morgan, the guerilla chief, had escaped from the Ohio Penitentiary at Columbus.

Over 1000 vessels have been captured since the blockade was instituted. The U. S. naval force consists of 588 vessels, 75 of which are iron-clads.

One hundred thousand freed slaves are in the Federal service, half of them bearing arms.

The negroes of New Orleans have petitioned General Shipley to be recognised as citizens, claiming that otherwise they are not liable to conscription.

*Rebeldom.*—President Jefferson Davis opened the Slaveholders' Congress on the 7th. In his message he speaks despondingly of the loss of Vicksburg, Port Hudson, and many other points. There has been no improvement in foreign relations since last January's message. On the contrary, there is a greater divergence in the conduct of European nations, assuming a positively unfriendly character. The marked partiality of England in favour of the Federals is strongly evinced in their decisions regarding the blockade, as well as in their marked difference of conduct on the subject of the purchase of supplies by both belligerents. This difference has been conspicuous since the commencement of the war. Prompt and efficacious remedy for the present condition of the currency is necessary to secure the full performance of the operations of Government. Mr. Davis recommends taxation. The currency must be promptly reduced to prevent the present inflated prices reaching more extravagant rates.

Mr. Davis also recommends the abolition of the substitute system and the modification of the exemption law, so that the army may be largely increased as rapidly as possible. He regrets the suspension of the exchange of prisoners, and that communication with the trans-Mississippi districts is so greatly obstructed. He bitterly criticises Earl Russell's policy in regard to the blockade; and, referring to Earl Russell's speech, that Englishmen would have been for ever infamous if, for the sake of their interests, they had violated the law of nations, and made war with the slaveholding States against the Federal States.

Mr. J. "Davis had summarily dismissed the British Consuls in the Confederate States.

The Richmond papers complain of the scarcity of food. The prisoners arriving from Richmond were starving.

The *Richmond Examiner* regards the seizure of the Confederate rams as the most unfriendly act yet committed by England towards the South. The *Richmond Whig* denounces it as an act of hostility, not neutrality.

*WEST INDIES.*—*Jamaica.*—The Jamaica Legislature was opened on the 2nd November ult. The chief points in the Lieut.-Governor's inaugural address refer to the great increase of coffee cultivation, the crop for 1863 having been the largest exported for twenty-four years; an increase which had compensated, in a measure, for the falling-off in the growth of sugar; secondly,



to the production of cotton, which is strongly recommended to the small settlers; thirdly, to the cessation of all immigration, except that of Africans from St. Helena.

The island papers are also advocating the cultivation of cotton, especially by the small freeholders.

The *Morning Journal* comments very severely upon the conduct of Governor Hill towards Mr. Fitzjames, late Queen's Advocate at Sierra Leone, who was the subject of an article in the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* a couple of months ago.

*Antigua*.—Governor Hill has already brought down upon himself the well-merited censure of the island press, by a letter to the Inspector of Schools on Education, in which he makes the following remarks:

"My own experience tends to the belief that negro boys educated for a position in the social scale above that in which God has placed them is a mistake injurious to the future of the boy, as it generally makes him ambitious and dissatisfied with his lot in life.

"I apprehend a practical education embracing reading, writing, and simple arithmetic, would be sufficient for public schools, without looking for a higher standard of knowledge."

*British Guiana*.—The question of immigration was still occupying the attention of the colony. A conference had taken place in the Hall of the Court of Policy, which was attended by the chief representatives of the planting interest. A decision was come to, that an attempt should be made to obtain free coloured labourers from the United States, this kind of immigration seeming to promise better results than that from India and China. In Demerara the weather was favourable, and the growth of cotton largely entered into, which was expected to revive trade considerably.

#### WEST-INDIA CORRESPONDENCE.

We have received several interesting letters from correspondents in the West-Indies, to which we invite attention. Although press of matter obliged us to defer publishing in our last the earlier communications, the delay has not impaired their value. We shall be glad to extend our circle of correspondents.

#### HONDURAS.

"Belize, Honduras,

"Sept. 14, 1863.

"I duly received your circular, and send you 11. 12s. from the Baptist Church here. Your *Reporter* is read with considerable interest here. The friends on the island of Ruatan desire to receive a copy. Can you send one to my care?

"I have been much interested during the last few weeks by the arrival of accredited agents of the black people of the United States and of Canada among us, seeking information respecting this country as a place to emigrate to.

"The first who came, a Mr. Maynard, a graduate of Oberlin College, I put as a general representative of his colour, more particularly those now known as 'Contrabands.' He visits our colony as opportunity offers, North and South.

"The second, Mr. Babcock, representing the free coloured of the free States, an intelligent, keen observer, gathers up with avidity every thing that shews the advancement of his race, compares nicely the position of coloured men under English rule, with the same under Republican America, and is not a little gratified, and surprised too, to find that the English far surpasses in justice and humanity. He leaves tomorrow by packet for Jamaica, so finding his way homeward. He also made a tour of the colony, and satisfied himself that the land is good.

"The third, Mr. Keef, from Canada, one out of a deputation where two were appointed—one from the Baptists, the other from the Methodists; the latter only secured the cash to pay his passage to Honduras: the Baptist deputy we still look for. Mr. Keef's account of the uncongeniality of the climate of Canada for the black is very affecting; lumbago, rheumatic and other pains bringing on a premature old age. Poor blacks cannot be reconciled to a seven months' winter, when their own climate, which God designs them, consists of a round twelve months' summer. I need not say Mr. Keef is delighted with Honduras, 'Never felt better in my life,' he says; does not mean to go back, but to send for his wife and daughter to come to him so soon as he can raise funds for that purpose: writing to his friends to come, by all means, to Honduras, for that he finds the country better than it was described to him.

Mr. Keef is engaged with others in forming a cotton-field on the island of Turneff, on the coast, with the view of supporting himself, and raising funds to send to Canada for his family.

The great promoter of this is Mr. John Hodge, an enlightened proprietor of land in Honduras, who entertains all these parties, and has made most liberal offers to the coloured people, in the hope that they will be induced in large numbers to immigrate, and by them introduce extensively the growth of cotton and sugar, for which this country is well adapted. Knowing you to be alive to any thing which relates to the prosperity of the black, I give you these particulars.

"I ought to mention, that during the last few weeks we have, as a community, been put into a state of painful anxiety on account of an outbreak of the soldiers of the First West-India Regiment stationed here, under Col. M'Cauley and his second in command, Captain Fanning. The latter was a lieutenant in 1850, when a similar disturbance occurred, only not carried quite so far. The origin seems to have been women of doubtful character accompanying the soldiers, who, in time, took up with par-



ties in Belize. The soldiers resented this, and petty squabbles of an evening occurred in that part of the town that lay next to the barracks. Strange to say, when the soldiers in the garrison recounted their exploits, this special officer, and others, encouraged their men to thrash the townspeople, instead of frowning upon such conduct on the part of their men, and enforcing becoming discipline. On the 12th 13th and 14th of August tumultuous gatherings of the soldiers appeared in Freetown (a part of Belize) after dark; the police endeavouring to maintain order the last day. As the police had nearly compelled the soldiers to retire to the garrison, a piquet of some twenty men came on the spot, with orders to sweep the streets. One policeman named Burke was stabbed with a bayonet, and died next day; several respectable citizens were severely beaten in the streets, and houses were broken into by the soldiers, the inmates beaten and furniture damaged. Next night the inhabitants armed, and had the soldiers ventured into the town a bloody conflict, it is believed, would have been the result. Inquiries have been instituted by the civil authorities, but they are looked upon as favouring the officers, and seek to screen them from merited infamy. Things are quiet again, but suffering parties have not been redressed."

## TOBAGO.

"Tobago, October 22, 1863.

"Among the various topics which of late have been under the notice of the *Anti-Slavery Society*, the matter of the St. Vincent riots, and the multiplied causes thereof, it is gratifying to find, have engaged their most prominent attention.

"I am absolutely opposed to any riotous measures as justifiable expedients for satisfying supposed or positive grievances; and therefore do most heartily concur in the strong animadversions which appeared in your *Reporter* of the 1st of August last, so fully expressive of the Society's sentiments in referring to the sad and lamentable occasion.

"It cannot, however, be denied, that the course pursued by Lieut.-Governor Musgrave was any thing but judicious and commendatory, as he ought to have satisfied the raging and aggravated labourers that he was anxious to become a mediator between them and their employers, proposed terms of amity between both parties, and have conciliated existing grievances, with a view especially to order and quietude, by calm and yet subduing firmness. Peace and goodwill would then most naturally have resulted, instead, of all that inhumanity, violence, bloodshed, and murder which characterized the sad event, serving to fill up the black catalogue which marks St. Vincent as foremost in recent times for malignant and disgraceful outrages to civilization. This idea is confirmed by Missionaries who have but lately laboured on the island.

"The alleged atrocities by the labouring population, now in question, were most unfortunately practised, in the first instance, on former occasions, by reputed gentlemen of the so-called aristocracy of the island, who, having set the law at complete defiance, were upheld by the Lieut.-Governor when he declared that it was out of his

power to control such violations of the public peace. Still I must assert, that had Mr. Musgrave shewn the least desire to appease the exasperated labourers, such is the tendency of the negro character to subordination, and especially to their superiors in authority, that perfect peace would have ensued.

"It should, Sir, be borne in mind—being a fact beyond contradiction—that the emancipated people in the West-Indies, from a sense of gratitude, are most obedient to the enactments of the State, through respect to our most gracious Sovereign, or they would not have borne so loyally the oppression under which they have been placed since the boon of freedom. Every law subsequent to the emancipation being the enactment of those who were concerned in Slavery, has been against the interest of the liberated; indeed, it is all self, self, self. For instance: in this island the most wealthy landed proprietor pays no more road-tax than the lowest labourer, although he uses and cuts it up in carting his produce. And what more can be expected when the West-Indian Legislatures are composed of the plantocracy, who are generally in the majority.

"As in these islands the injustice and wrongs to the emancipated class have for several years been unrepresented, it now becomes the benevolent and philanthropic in England to be prompt in sending out a deputation to inquire specially into the actual state of affairs. Such an impartial body, whether two or more, perceiving the sort of way in which justice is dealt to the injured labourers, in the relation they stand to their employers, could take back a true report of facts, which would cause an appeal to be made to Her Majesty's Government, setting forth existing grievances in their proper light, and urging strongly the necessity of an independent and self-disinterested magistracy for that most useful class, upon whose toils depend all our staple productions.

"But what appears to be a secret in the question as to the prosperity of these islands, is the misfortune that they are quite incapable of responsible self-government, and, consequently, need more of the colonial minister's immediate supervision. To facilitate this measure would require a further extension of the franchise. The advantages that other colonies under the British Government derive in this respect are not acquired by us, on account of the cursed effects of Slavery, which still remain unexterminated.

"Another great drawback which also seriously affects us in every direction is the indiscriminate with which it appears individuals are selected as Governors. Although it may not be so, yet it certainly would seem, that in his nominations the Secretary of State adheres more to a desire for promoting officials, than their eligibility to fill such an important post; and hence the unfitness to govern, which is but too apparent in those who are appointed to represent our most gracious Sovereign in this part of Her Majesty's dominions. With a few most worthy exceptions, the generality of West-India Governors are those whose bearings do not comport with their distinguished and most responsible office. Having had recent opportunity to hear of some of their

remarks which have appeared in the Blue Book, I fear that many of their statements being gross misrepresentations, are unreliable sources of information. I allude more particularly to the alleged complaint of a paucity in the qualification of persons to serve as jurors, and the reported incapacity even of the better informed of the emancipated class to occupy important positions in the community. Such statements are quite derogatory to the successful efforts of Missionary enterprise. Let it be known that we are not such fools as our enemies make us in their representations: hence we can always detect their cloven-footedness. If governors really attended to the interests of their charge, they would always find many useful and beneficial topics for suggestion which, commercially as well as in other respects, would greatly accelerate the desired reciprocity between the mother-country and ourselves. Their object should be to cure the old wound.

"I think the salaries of Governors sufficiently liberal to induce many gentlemen in England to sojourn amongst us in that position for the prescribed term, or longer by removal; and, on their return home, others of similar standing, as well as equal ability, could be sent to supply their places. This course of policy would be the means of securing general respect to the representatives of sovereignty, and also satisfy those officials who, from long service, lay claim to comparative distinction.

"I have been led to pen the foregoing remarks in testimony of my approval of the steps taken by the Society with respect to injustice and wrongs practised in the island of St. Vincent, among others, on the labouring population; because it is beyond doubt that every statement in the *Reporter*, with reference thereto, can be fully established.

"The editor of a St. Vincent newspaper, styled the *Witness*, in his leaders of the 10th and 17th of September last, has endeavoured to hold up Governor Musgrave, his array of officials, and the plantocracy of the island, as having been most prudent and forbearing, in the face of what can be pronounced as nothing but wanton and deliberate murders and cruelties on their part. Those of us, however, in the West-Indies, who have had experience in the arbitrary customs of these islands, and are actuated by an independent spirit, can well rate the worth of the laboured effort of the *Witness* to stifle facts; forsooth, his declaring to the world that he is of ebony stain. Unfortunately, the upper classes in St. Vincent, of African descent, are any thing but true to their race, who most decidedly are the weaker side, and need the advocacy of their more favoured brethren. It seems, however, that these go with the stronger party, which is a matter much to be regretted. The *Witness*, while it asserts that the statements which 'the Anti-Slavery Society have adopted are a tissue of falsehoods,' is yet silent as to the murder of Peters; and, thanks to Mr. Editor, for admitting that some of the alleged rioters were flogged at the instance of a police corporal, in the absence of a superior officer to give such orders. So much for the efficiency of Mr. Musgrave's administration.

"No doubt 'there is a rottenness' in the St. Vincent state, when, on the authority of a disinterested and respectable planter, (who removed from the island a few weeks before the disturbance took place,) much dissatisfaction existed so far back as two years.

"Firstly, The native labourers had become jealous on hearing that Coolies were expected to supersede them. Secondly: their weekly allowance of molasses had been reduced from three quarts to two. Thirdly, The planters had put cattle in their provision grounds, which, being allowed them as part of their wages, were cultivated by them during their leisure hours and on Saturdays; and, lastly, The price of sugar having fallen in the European markets, the usual rates of hire would be reduced 8d. per day. Surely, if no one else, the district magistrate should have brought these grievances to the notice of the proper authority, and 'prevention would have been better than cure.'

"In conclusion I would say that the *British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society* has for several years since the emancipation been the subject of heaped abuse by the West-India press; and, having been most forbearing on such occasions, now that there is an opportunity your body should carry on its well-avowed principles towards effecting a complete reform in the policy of the islands. Such a measure, without doubt, is highly expedient."

BAHAMAS.

"Nassau, New Providence,

"Bahamas, October 23, 1863.

"There has been a little slave girl arrived in Nassau two weeks ago, with a lady, her mistress, from New Orleans. She intended taking her with her to Havana a few days after her arrival here: the girl was consequently kept close, and not allowed to go out, except on one occasion, when she was rescued from her. Some one finding it out, informed me. I then went to the Attorney-General and he directed me to go to the magistrate, E. B. A. Taylor, Esq., and he gave me a policeman to be posted in the front of the house where the lady boarded: consequently, when the girl came out with her mistress's children on the very evening that she was to go on board of the steamer, she was taken by the policeman from them. They have left for Havana, but the girl is still here. The mistress tried hard to get her back, but did not succeed. The girl says their name is Davis, and that her master was a banker in New Orleans, and made his escape to Havana when the Yankees took that place: his wife remained, and has now gone to him."

#### EMANCIPATION OF THE SERFS.

The following communication, on the subject of the emancipation of the serfs in Russia, the first of a short series, has been received by the Committee of the *British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society*:

"In compliance with your request, I send you a few remarks on the subject of serf emancipation in Russia, now peacefully and successfully accomplished.

"I recently spent five months in that country, mainly in order to gain information from the best sources on the facts connected with this movement, and I have consulted the enemies as well as the friends of the measure, English and German residents, as well as Russians. The leaders afforded me every facility of access to official documents, and I visited estates in various parts of Russia to make further inquiries into the local working of the measure.

"Whatever may be thought of the conduct of Russia towards Poland, in carrying on the present war, I trust that due credit may be given to the present Emperor and the Russian Liberals for this noble act of serf emancipation. They had a hard battle to fight against the reactionary party, who denounced emancipation as socialism, for they knew that it must gradually introduce in its train a host of other reforms. They prophesied that anarchy and bloodshed must ensue; but the Emperor gave no heed, and was prepared to risk his crown and his life in order to free the peasant.

"Serf emancipation is an accomplished fact. Twenty-three millions of an intelligent, active peasantry have been by it raised from the degradation of being mere chattels, things for sale; though it must be admitted that serfdom was not so degrading as Slavery is. The intellect and social energies of the serfs, which have been frozen up for centuries, are now set free; and this great social change has been effected within two years, in spite of the formidable opposition of the Russian nobility. The fiat of one man, supported by a few choice spirits, has accomplished all this. The revolution has been a bloodless one; no social disorganization has resulted; and even some of its bitterest opponents begin now to admit that, as the operation had to be performed some time, it was as well to do it at once. They are now learning to adapt themselves to the new order of things.

"Serf emancipation is of deep interest, for the following considerations:

"1. The anti-slavery cause receives powerful encouragement from it. It took many years' agitation, and the expenditure of 20,000,000*l.* sterling, to emancipate 800,000 slaves in the West Indies. American Slavery has lasted a long time, and is still a fearful blot; but in Russia we have, in the short space of two years, the emancipation of 23,000,000 of a fine race of peasants, who are, physically and mentally, superior to the negro race. The influence and example of these emancipated serfs will operate on the world, and will shew, that while so beneficial a revolution has taken place successfully in Russia, other countries may learn to 'go and do likewise.' The serfs have shewn, by their peaceable demeanour, and by avoiding any violent excess, that they knew how to appreciate their newly-acquired liberty.

"2. The friends of constitutional government have reason to rejoice in serf emancipation, as forming the first instalment of liberal institutions in Russia.

"Even the late Emperor Nicholas was convinced that emancipation was necessary, but he would not give it, knowing that it would involve reform in all other departments of the State; that the upheaving of the masses would affect every institution in Russia. As serf emancipation included municipal institutions for the peasantry, a constitution, therefore, for all Russia follows as a corollary; and I found, among all intelligent Russians, the full conviction that a constitution must naturally come in a few years; that as municipal constitutions grow out of emancipation, so provincial assemblies are the result of municipal freedom, and a constitution will be the fruit of provincial assemblies. These steps are now being taken.

"3. Municipal institutions for all Russia are the certain result. I have been delighted to see how the peasantry, by means of the commune or village elective council, regulate their own affairs, elect the chief of each village, have their regular village meetings (I will explain this more at large in a subsequent letter). But this municipal liberty granted to peasants cannot be limited to them: there will soon be municipal bodies in every town in Russia. Moscow, and Petersburg, since the last two years, have been granted mayors, elected by the citizens, without the control of Government, and also provincial assemblies. As the next step, what has been conceded to the peasant cannot be denied to the merchant and noble. These municipal institutions are training schools for the peasantry; they enable them to resist the oppression of the noble and the Government *employés*; they also break the force of that centralization which has been such a curse to Russia; and they are nuclei to protect the weak against the venal police of Russia: for in the peasants' court, oral evidence, summary decision, and publicity, form the rules of proceeding, while a simple and cheap code of law is administered.

"4. An honorary magistracy and municipal institutions serve as training schools for justices of the peace, a class who may exercise an important influence in diminishing what has been admitted to be the great curse of Russia, *viz.* the venality of ill-paid *employés*, and bribery. To carry out the Emancipation Act, 1500 unpaid justices of the peace were nominated by Government. The administration of these men, who were selected for their character and public spirit, has generally given satisfaction, and it is intended that they shall be continued, to discharge similar duties to those of county magistrates in England. I attended several of their monthly sessions in the interior of Russia, and they are well spoken of: their labours are as successful as



those of a similar class of honorary magistrates in India.

"5. The cause of education is identified with emancipation. Already, within two years, more than 8000 new schools have sprung into existence, through individual efforts among the peasantry, and they are rapidly on the increase. The peasant is anxious to be able to read the laws by which he is governed; besides, the elevation of his social position through emancipation gives him the means, as well as the inclination, to learn to read. The example of peasant elevation in other parts of Europe confirms this. In Russia, before emancipation, there was scarcely a day school among the peasantry; but these 8000 schools have arisen spontaneously from the wish of the peasants, aided by the clergy and gentry. The Government has spent nothing on them. The Emperor Nicholas allowed only of colleges and universities, and that to a very limited degree: serf emancipation inaugurates the education of the masses.

"6. Religious progress is deeply connected with an enlightened and independent peasantry, who will not be the victory of superstition or priestcraft. Religion follows in the train of civil liberty. With the fall of feudal tyranny, priestly exactions and domination must cease. Many Russians have assured me, that, since emancipation, a great desire has sprung up in various quarters among the peasantry to read the Scriptures, and they shew their interest by purchasing copies, while, to meet the new state of things, the Greek Church—highly to its credit—is publishing the Russian New Testament at the low price of 6d. a copy.

"7. The cause of peace is likely to be served. Under serfdom, the military life benefited the peasants, as becoming a soldier conferred freedom on them; but the peasant now has a status and a stake in the country, and is therefore not so inclined to become 'food for powder.' Serf emancipation, by pushing on internal reform, is calculated to withdraw the attention from objects of aggression, and to point out to Russia that internal development, and not foreign conquest, is her true strength. The Russian peasant sympathizes with this, as he has secured to him by emancipation the possession of land, the great desideratum with the masses in Russia. The grand scope of their ambition—a *proletariat* peasantry—supplies ample material for war. The Russian peasant, therefore, will naturally prefer agriculture to war, while the elevation of his social position, in creating new wants, will give a fresh impulse to trade, one of the great antagonists of war.

"8. The effects in Asia are likely to be great. Already, through the length and breadth of India has this great measure received the warmest sympathy from natives of all classes, who view it as a sign of great good to them that Russian

influence in Central and Northern Asia will be on the side of an emancipation policy, as English influence has been in India. The Slavonic and Anglo-Saxon races will thus co-operate as anti-slavery advocates through Asia.

"9. The Russian nobility have long been noted for absenteeism, extravagant luxury, and false varnish. Serfdom tempted them to be tyrants, and afforded full scope for all depraved propensities: the troops of servants kept in idleness enervated the masters, while the power he had of deporting them to Siberia, or inflicting torture, produced a hardening effect on his heart. To keep up a life of luxury, he had to speculate in the public offices. There are nearly 300,000 nobles in Russia. Emancipation is already leading many of them to reside on their estates, consequently to lead simple lives, and identify themselves more with the welfare of the country.

"10. The social condition of the peasant is being improved. The anxiety of the peasant to purchase land, so strongly marked in France, is shewing itself also in Russia, thus leading to habits of industry, in order to procure the means of making the purchase. Indolence, the natural fruit of serfdom, is giving way to the encouragement of industry. One million peasants have bought up the land on which they were formerly located, borrowing the money from Government. The price of land is rising all through Russia, owing to the peasants renting or hiring it to a far greater extent than formerly, though the enemies of emancipation said the peasants would be too indolent to cultivate the land. Money is no longer hidden in earthen pots in the ground, or in the wall, through fear of the steward. The peasants' houses in some quarters are exhibiting a greater appearance of comfort, and providing more rooms, instead of—after the old fashion—crowding twenty-five into a room. More houses have been built within the last two years than during the previous six.

"In conclusion, peace has been generally maintained. During the carrying out of this measure, there were only two cases of revolt, caused by a rumour spread among 10,000 peasants in the governments of Kazan and Panja that the Emperor had ordered no more money to be paid. I myself resided for a time in the centre of a district 100 miles south of Moscow, and the proprietor never locked his door at night. Nowhere in Russia did I hear any expressions uttered of apprehensions of social disorganization or riot.

"In my next letter I will treat of the origin and history of serf emancipation.

"Believe me,

"Your's truly,

"J. LONG.

(*Nil Durpan.*)

"Nov. 27, 1863."

### THE SCOTCH CLERGY AND THE SOUTHERN MINISTERS' APOLOGY FOR SLAVEHOLDING.

THE following reply of the leading Ministers of Scotland, to the scandalous address of the Clergy of the South, apologizing for Slavery, and defending it as a divine institution, and which we recorded at the time, has been excluded from our columns in consequence of the want of space. This timely reply is admirably to the point, and will commend itself as one of the most cogent protests against slaveholding that any body of men has issued.

#### REPLY.

"We, the undersigned ministers of the Church of Scotland, in reply to the appeal made to us in the 'Address to Christians throughout the World,' recently put forth 'by the Clergy of the Confederate States of America,' feel bound to give public expression to our views, lest our continued silence should be misconstrued, as implying either acquiescence in the principles of the document, or indifference to the crime which it seeks to defend.

"We refer, of course, to a single topic, that of Slavery, as it is handled in the address. We desire to say nothing inconsistent with our country's attitude of strict neutrality as regards the war raging across the Atlantic. We do not discuss any of the political questions connected with its origin, progress, and probable issues. We offer no opinion on the measures adopted on either side. Nor are we to be regarded as shutting our eyes to the past and present sins and shortcomings of the North in relation to the African race. The one object we have in view is to express the deep grief, alarm, and indignation with which we have perused the pleading on behalf of Slavery in general, and American Slavery in particular, to which so many servants of the Lord Jesus Christ have not scrupled to append their names. With the feeblest possible incidental admission of 'abuses' which they 'may deplore, in this as in other relations of mankind,' we find these men broadly maintaining, in the most unqualified manner, that 'the relation of master and slave'—'AMONG US,' they add, to make their meaning more explicit—'is not incompatible with our holy Christianity.' They thank God for it, as for a Missionary institution; the best, as it would seem, and the most successful in the world. They hold it to be their peculiar function to defend and perpetuate it. And they evidently contemplate the formation of the Southern Confederacy upon the basis of Slavery as one of its fundamental and permanent principles or elements, not only without regret, but with entire satisfaction and approval.

"Against all this—in the name of that

holy faith and that thrice holy name which they venture to invoke on the side of a system which treats immortal and redeemed men as goods and chattels, denies them the rights of marriage and of home, consigns them to ignorance of the first rudiments of education, and exposes them to the outrages of lust and passion—we most earnestly and emphatically protest. We do not think it needful to argue. The time for argument has for many a year been regarded by the whole of enlightened Christendom as passed and gone. Apologists for Slavery, attempting to shelter themselves and it under the authority of God's word and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, are to be denounced as really—whatever may be their intention—the worst enemies of both.

"All reasonable allowance, no doubt, should be made for the circumstances of Christian ministers called in providence to labour where Slavery exists. Some soreness, even, on their part, under what they regard as unjustifiable and dangerous movements on the other side, might be excused as not unnatural. And if we saw them manfully lifting their voice on behalf of universal liberty, and setting themselves to aim at the instant redress of the more flagrant of the wrongs incident to a state of bondage, we would be prepared calmly to listen to their representations as to the best and likeliest practical methods of promoting the present amelioration of the condition of the slaves, and securing, within the shortest period consistent with safety, their complete and final emancipation.

"We are reluctant to abandon the hope that, upon reconsideration, and in the view of the sentiments now unanimously held and expressed on this subject everywhere else, all over Christendom, our American brethren may yet be induced to take up a position more worthy of our common faith than that which they at present occupy. But, at all events, the obligation lying upon us, as things now stand, towards them, towards ourselves, towards the Church and the world, towards the Bible and the Gospel, is to record, in the strongest possible terms, our abhorrence of the doctrine on the subject of Slavery, which the Southern clergy teach, and upon which they act; and to testify before all nations, that any state, empire, or republic constituted or reconstructed, in these days of Christian light and liberty, upon the basis of that doctrine practically applied, must in the sight of God be regarded as founded on wrong and crime, and as deserving, not his blessing, but his righteous wrath.

Rob. S. Candlish, D.D., Edinburgh.

Thomas Guthrie, D.D., "

W. H. Goold, D.D., "

Rob. Buchanan, D.D., Glasgow.

John Cairns, D.D., Berwick-on-Tweed.



Charles J. Brown, D.D., Edinburgh.  
 Andrew Thompson, D.D., "  
 William Arnot, Glasgow.  
 W. Lindsay Alexander, D.D., Edinburgh.  
 James Begg, D.D., Edinburgh.  
 Edinburgh, September 22, 1863.

### ABOLITIONISM IN THE BORDER STATES.

THE change of opinion in regard to Slavery which is now going on, with marvellous rapidity, in the Border States, is one of the most hopeful signs of the present time. The force of events is against the continuance of the slave-system. The irresistible arguments in favour of free-labour are listened to and are producing their necessary effects. Free discussion is opening the way for all other freedom. The question of the continuance of Slavery is practically determined. The following extracts shew the progress of the Border States to freedom and prosperity:

#### THE CHANGE IN TENNESSEE.

The following quotations from a letter recently received from a Massachusetts man now in Tennessee afford very gratifying evidence of the spread of anti-slavery opinions in that State:

"Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 12, 1863.

"I find here a large and increasing anti-slavery sentiment, as decided and active as at the North, which needs only to be organized to expression to become very effective. Here are congregated a large number of men, formerly slaveholders, and who will be so again from necessity if the institution is not abolished, who are now as strong in our faith and more self-sacrificing than our best men. It would be of no use to send Wendell Phillips here, except it should be to learn from them. They tell me that there are many others all through the State. Mr. — told me that he had been an anti-slavery man for years, and since the rebellion broke out he had found more than five hundred men who entertained the same opinions, but dared not communicate them. He is ready to circulate any documents that may be furnished to him. Mr. — is a slaveholder who left Louisville because it was dangerous. His slaves are all there. He left them to take care of themselves. He says: 'I was a pro-slavery man before the rebellion, but turned against it as soon as they brought our State in. They seduced my only son into the ranks. I recovered his blackened remains from a Mississippi swamp. I wept over them, but tears brought no relief, for he died a traitor. If he could have died an honest death, I could have been comforted. I will never forgive the rebels for this.' He now enters heartily into the work of reconstructing Tennessee on free-labour. This State can be made, by the co-operation of the War Department, the nucleus of the free-labour system for the South. . . . On Monday evening last, a meeting of one hundred men of this State was held in the State House, in this city. One old man said he had been a slaveholder, and a hard master. He had lost all his slaves, and it was the punishment of God for his sins. God had permitted this rebellion as a punishment for

Slavery, and he would continue to punish them until they repented and abolished it. These remarks were loudly applauded in Nashville by Tennesseans."

#### FREE NEGROES IN TENNESSEE.

(From the Nashville Union, Sept. 18.)

"The negroes of this State are actually free already, just as much so as the whites, and we may as well accustom ourselves to look this fact in the face. The danger connected with the negro population in Tennessee will be seen, if we madly attempt to force them back into Slavery. There probably will be some difficulties, but certainly no serious danger, if they are allowed to have their freedom. The enemies of emancipation have always asserted that free negroes are a dangerous population. Will some one tell us how many free negroes there must be in a community to make them dangerous? There were over 7000 free blacks in this State in 1860, and we venture the assertion that a more harmless population could be found nowhere. . . .

"Tennessee has got along so quietly with over 7000 free blacks that she has hardly been aware of their presence. We know that when a proposition was made in our Legislature, a few years ago, to sell them into Slavery or drive them from the State, the venerable Judge Catron, of the United-States' Court, and Hon. Jordan Stokes, protested eloquently and indignantly against the infamous Bill, and defeated it. 'Ah!' says some negro maniac, '7000 free blacks are of little consequence, but if you were to increase the number to 30,000 it would be very dangerous.' Indeed! The facts are against this assertion. North Carolina had 30,000 free blacks at the last census, and nobody ever heard that they were a dangerous class. Ohio had 36,000, and we don't think that our friends there are the least frightened about it. New York had 49,000, and they behaved themselves so well, that they actually let some of them vote—just as we used to do. Virginia, the 'Old Dominion,' the 'Mother of Presidents,' the oracle of all the chivalry, has over 58,000 on her sacred soil, and they never hurt anybody. Not to multiply examples, the little Slave State of 'My Maryland,' which Davis has been trying so hard, but in vain, to annex to the Southern Confederacy, had 83,942 free blacks, among 687,000 citizens, or about one-eighth of her entire population! And yet who ever heard of the free blacks in Maryland being a source of danger? Delaware furnishes, on a smaller scale, a still more striking example of the peaceable disposition of the free blacks, for in that State the population stood in 1860 at 19,826 free blacks to 90,589 whites, the former constituting almost one-fourth of the population. There is no dodging or evading these statistics: they are unanswerable. But, says one, how will you keep the emancipated blacks in check? Just as we do all other people. We have courts, and laws, and officers: if they do not obey the laws of their own accord, we will make them obey. But they will stir up insurrections. Pray, what will they make insurrection against when they are set free? . . . But suppose that they should become violent as a class? In that case the power of the whole nation would be ready to crush them out, just as it is now crushing out the violence of white rebels in this State, and the power would not have to be exerted very



long. . . . There would be employment, wages, moral and educational influences, courts, officers, laws, and *United-States' troops*, to keep the free negroes in proper limits; and we feel satisfied that 275,000 negroes could be held in restraint as easily as 900,000 whites. . . . And we assure both the negroes and the anti-*emancipationists* that the *United-States' Government* and the State of Tennessee will be abundantly able to keep black vagabonds and law-breakers in complete subjection.

#### THE EXAMPLE OF MISSOURI.

(From the *St. Louis Democrat*, Sept. 25.)

"In Missouri we desire radical action, because we were convinced the State was in such a condition as to need it. We accordingly have avowed ourselves Radicals. Our enemies do not call us that in derision any more. We have made the name 'Radical' respectable. We have done it by being honest. Had we adopted a compromising platform, we to-day would have had the word 'Radical' hurled in our teeth as a term of reproach. We have boldly assumed to ask exactly what we want, and we will get it. Had we asked for less, the probability is we would get nothing—certainly not the full measure of our requirements.

"Maryland and Missouri are situated very much alike. They need in fact the same thing. They should pursue the same policy in order to attain it. That policy is the one that is winning in Missouri. It will answer just as well for Maryland. The Border Slave States may well take a lesson from the example of the free-soilers of Missouri for the last twelve months. If they do, another twelve months will not pass over before there will be a battle-line of freedom south of Mason and Dixon's line, from the Atlantic to the Indian country, pressing on irresistibly to the achievement of a national emancipation.

#### THE EVILS OF SLAVE-LABOUR.

(From the *Address of the Union State Central Committee of Maryland*, Sept. 1863.)

"The people in Maryland are not likely longer to submit the policy of the State to the dictation of the slaveholding interest. The free white men are the people of Maryland who henceforth will dictate the policy of the State, and it is the interest of the *free people* of Maryland, especially of the *free-labouring* people, that Slavery should cease to degrade labour.

"The existence of slave-labour is a disturbing element in our social relations, in our industry, in our politics.

"It creates and maintains a class of pretenders to aristocratic superiority over their fellow-citizens, which now splits into a thousand fragments the social system of the State, and subjects labour to the contempt of those who have negroes to work for them.

"It excludes the emigration of free-labour into the State, and drives from it a very large proportion of its native sons, carrying with them their enterprise, industry, and education, to swell the power of the West.

"It depresses the value of our lands by repelling the investments of the enterprising men of the Free States.

"It keeps our agricultural system below that of the neighbouring Free States, by the wastefulness, sloth, and indifference inseparable from

labour without hope of reward, or the impulse of bettering its condition on any interest in the results of economy.

"Its disordering influence on the growth and prosperity of the State is shewn by the difference between the free and slave counties: the former lie north of the *Sassafraz* and *Patapsco*; the latter south of those rivers.

"The free counties contained in 1850, 980,574 cultivated acres, while the slave counties had 1,747,623; but the free lands were valued at 47,851,645 dollars, while the slave lands were worth only 41,779,616 dollars.

"The farms in the slave counties averaged 143 acres each, worth 3433 dollars; the free farms averaging only 101 acres each, were yet worth 4735 dollars.

"The free land was worth 48 dollars 82 cents; the slave land 23 dollars 91 cents per acre.

"This is the relation of the Slave States to the Free States, wonderfully brought home to our very doors, and made manifest within the narrow limits of our own State."

#### THE SLAVE INTEREST AGAINST FREE-LABOUR.

[Extract from the *Address of the Union State Central Committee of Maryland*.]

"The slave interest now excludes free white labour from the farms of the slaveholding counties; and the masters profit by the exclusion at the expense of both the free white labourer and of the smaller landowners, who are dependent on the slaveholding monopoly for much of their labour.

"More labour is needed, but white labour shrinks from contact with slave-labour; and the masters have an interest in repelling it; and they succeed by making free-labour hold the level of the slave.

"This slave competition is the only dangerous competition. It has already sacrificed free-labour to its domination: and its destruction is the surest way to promote the interests of free-labour. Its intelligence, activity, economy, will ensure its supremacy, as soon as the ban of the slaveholders' contempt and the monopoly of the slaveholders' interest are removed.

"They who despise free-labour, and insolently put free mechanics on the footing of these slaves, will be the first to prejudice the men of the mechanical classes against emancipation—by suggesting that it means negro equality, social equality, political privileges, negro competition with white labour; they will talk of the laziness and dishonesty of free negroes; their swarming into the city for theft and beggary. At least, they will say, 'Let emancipation be not adopted without colonization.'

"But do they consider free-labour now above slave-labour? Do they not look down on it with contempt? Has this not always been avowed by their confederates in Congress?

"And there are now more free negroes than slaves in Maryland, yet they have neither social nor political equality.

"The slave interest tells free-labour to oppose emancipation because it brings negro-labour into competition with white-labour.

"The very object of emancipation is to end that competition in its most powerful and only dangerous form—the competition of negro labour held by masters, and brought into competition with white-labour for the benefit of the masters."

## The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1864.

### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

OUR Subscribers are solicited to take notice that their Subscriptions to the Anti-Slavery Society's Funds, and to the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*, fall due on the 1st of January every year. They are respectfully requested to forward the amounts due, by Post-office Order, payable to L. A. Chamerovzow, at the Post-office, Moorgate Street, E.C., London.

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### PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S MESSAGE.

WE append, from the Message of President Lincoln, delivered on the opening of the United-States' Congress on the 7th ult., such extracts as are interesting from an anti-slavery point of view, and which bear upon the questions which have divided public opinion in this country. The message is remarkably brief for a state document of so much importance; but it is not less clear and forcible, and leaves no doubt of the President's determination to carry out an abolition policy:

#### THE MESSAGE.

(Extracts.)

#### FELLOW-CITIZENS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

"Another year of health and sufficiently abundant harvests has passed. For these, and especially for the improved condition of our national affairs, our renewed and profoundest gratitude is due.

#### FOREIGN NEUTRALITY.

"We remain in peace and friendship with foreign Powers. The efforts of disloyal citizens of the United States to involve us in foreign wars to aid an inexcusable insurrection have been unavailing. Her Britannic Majesty's Government, as was justly expected, have exercised their authority to prevent the departure of new hostile expeditions from British ports. The Emperor of France has, by a like proceeding, promptly indicated the neutrality which he proclaimed at the beginning of the contest. Questions of great intricacy and importance have arisen out of the blockade and other belligerent operations between the Government and several of the maritime Powers, but they have been discussed, and, as far as was possible, accommodated in a spirit of frankness, justice, and national goodwill. It is especially gratifying that our prize courts, by the impartiality of their adjudications, have

commanded the respect and confidence of maritime Powers.

#### THE SLAVE-TRADE TREATY.

"The supplemental treaty between the United States and Great Britain for the suppression of the African slave-trade, made on the 17th day of February last, has been duly ratified and carried into execution. It is believed that, so far as American ports and American citizens are concerned, that inhuman and odious traffic has been brought to an end.

#### THE WAR.

"When Congress assembled a year ago the war had already lasted nearly twenty months, and there had been many conflicts on both land and sea, with varying results; the rebellion had been pressed back into reduced limits, yet the tone of public feeling and opinion at home and abroad was not satisfactory. With other signs the popular elections then just past indicated uneasiness among ourselves, while, amid much that was cold and menacing, the kindest words coming from Europe were uttered in accents of pity that we were too blind to surrender a hopeless cause. Our commerce was suffering greatly by a few armed vessels built upon and furnished from foreign shores, and we were threatened with such additions from the same quarters as would sweep our trade from the sea, and raise the blockade. We had failed to elicit from European Governments any thing hopeful upon this subject. The preliminary Emancipation Proclamation issued in September was running its assigned period to the beginning of the new year. A month later the final Proclamation came, including the announcement that coloured men of suitable condition would be received in the war service. The policy of emancipation and of employing black soldiers gave to the future a new aspect, about which hope and fear and doubt contended in uncertain conflict. According to our political system, as a matter of civil administration, the Government had no lawful power to effect emancipation in any State, and for a long time it had been hoped that the rebellion could be suppressed without resorting to it as a military measure. It was all the while deemed possible that the necessity for it might come, and that if it should, the crisis of the contest would then be presented. It came, and, as was anticipated, was followed by dark and doubtful days.

"Eleven months having now passed, we are permitted to take another review. The rebel borders are pressed still further back, and by the complete opening of the Mississippi, the country dominated by the rebellion is divided into two distinct parts, with no practical communication between them. Tennessee and Arkansas have been substantially cleared of insurgent control, and influential citizens in each, owners of slaves and advocates of Slavery at the beginning of the rebellion, now declare openly for emancipation in their respective States. Of the States not included in the Emancipation Proclamation, Maryland and Missouri, neither of which, three years ago, would tolerate any restraint upon the extension of Slavery into new territories, only dispute now as to the best mode of removing it within their own limits. Of those who were slaves at the beginning of the rebellion, full 100,000 are now in the United-States' military



service, about one half of which number actually bear arms in the ranks, thus giving the double advantage of taking so much labour from the insurgent cause, and supplying the places which otherwise must be filled with so many white men. So far as tested, it is difficult to say they are not as good soldiers as any. No servile insurrection or tendency to violence or cruelty has marked the measures of emancipation and arming the blacks. These measures have been much discussed in foreign countries, and contemporary with such discussion the tone of public sentiment there is much improved. At home the same measures have been fully discussed, supported, criticized, and denounced, and the annual elections following are highly encouraging to those whose official duty it is to bear the country through this great trial. Thus we have the new reckoning. The crisis which threatened to divide the friends of the Union is now past.

## AMNESTY.

"Looking now to the present and future, and with a reference to a resumption of the national authority in the States, wherein that authority has been suspended, I have thought fit to issue a proclamation, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. On examination of this Proclamation, it will appear (as is believed) that nothing is attempted beyond what is amply justified by the Constitution. True, the form of an oath is given, but no man is coerced to take it. The man is only promised a pardon in case he voluntarily takes the oath. The Constitution authorises the Executive to grant or withhold the pardon at his own absolute discretion, and this includes the power to grant on terms, as is fully established by judicial and other authorities. It is also proffered, that if in any of the States named a State Government shall be recognised and guaranteed by the United States, that under it the State shall, on the constitutional conditions, be protected against invasion and domestic violence. The constitutional obligation of the United States to guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of Government, and to protect the State in the cases stated, is explicit and full. But why tender the benefits of this provision only to a State Government set up in this particular way? This section of the Constitution contemplates a case wherein the element within a State favourable to Republican Government in the Union may be too feeble for an opposite and hostile element external to, or even within, the State, and such are precisely the cases with which we are now dealing. An attempt to guarantee and protect a revived State Government, constructed in whole, or in preponderating part, from the very element against whose hostility and violence it is to be protected, is simply absurd. There must be a test by which to separate the opposing elements so as to build only from the sound, and that test is a sufficiently liberal one which accepts as sound whoever will make a sworn recantation of his former movements. But if it be proper to require as a test of admission to the political body an oath of allegiance to the United States and to the Union under it, why not also to the laws and proclamations in regard to Slavery? Those laws and proclamations were put forth for the purpose of aiding in the suppression of the rebellion. To

give them the fullest effect, there had to be a pledge for their maintenance. In my judgment they have aided, and will further aid, the cause for which were intended. To now abandon them would be not only to relinquish a lever of power, but would also be a cruel and astounding breach of faith. I may add, at this point, while I remain in my present position I shall not attempt to retract or modify the Emancipation Proclamation, nor shall I return to Slavery any person who is free by the terms of that Proclamation, or by any of the acts of Congress. For these and other reasons it is thought best that support of these measures shall be included in the oath, and it is believed that the Executive may lawfully claim it in return for pardon and restoration of forfeited rights, which he has a clear constitutional power to withhold altogether, or grant upon the terms he shall deem wisest for the public interest. It should be observed, also, that this part of the oath is subject to the modifying and abrogating power of legislation and supreme judicial decision. The proposed acquiescence of the National Executive in any reasonable temporary State arrangement for the freed people is made with the view of possibly modifying the confusion and destitution which must at best attend all classes by a total revolution of labour throughout the whole States. It is hoped that the already deeply-afflicted people in those States may be somewhat more ready to give up the cause of their affliction, if to this extent this vital matter be left to themselves, while no power of the National Executive to prevent an abuse is abridged by the proposition.

"The suggestion in the Proclamation as to maintaining the political framework of the States on what is called reconstruction, is made in the hope that it may do good without danger of harm. It will save labour and avoid confusion. But why any Proclamation now upon the subject? This subject is beset with the conflicting views that the step might be delayed too long, or be taken too soon. In some States the elements for resumption seem ready for action, but remain inactive, apparently for want of a rallying-point—a plan of action. Why shall A adopt the plan of B, rather than B that of A? And if A and B should agree, how can they know but that the general Government here will reject their plan? By the Proclamation a plan is presented which may be accepted by them as a rallying-point, and which they are assured in advance will not be rejected here. This may bring them to act sooner than they otherwise would. The objections to a premature presentation of a plan by the National Executive consists in the danger of Committees on points which could be more safely left to further developments. Care has been taken to so shape the *dénouement* as to avoid embarrassment from this source, saying that on certain terms certain classes will be pardoned, with rights restored. It is not said that other classes and other terms will never be included, saying that reconstruction will be accepted if presented in a specific way. It is not said it will never be accepted in any other way. The movements by State action for emancipation in several of the States not included in the Emancipation Proclamation are matters of profound gratulation. And while I do not repeat



nor detail what I have heretofore so earnestly urged upon this subject, my general views and feelings remain unchanged; and I trust that Congress will omit no fair opportunity of aiding these important steps to the great consummation. In the midst of other cares, however important, we must not lose sight of the fact that the war power is still our main reliance. To that power alone can we look for a time to give confidence to the people in the contested regions that the insurgent power will not again overrun them. Until that confidence shall be established, little can be done anywhere for what is called reconstruction. Hence our chiefest care must still be directed to the army and navy, which have thus far borne their harder part so nobly and well; and it may be esteemed fortunate, that in giving the greatest efficiency to these indispensable arms, we do honourably recognise the gallant men, from commander to sentinel, who compose them, and to whom, more than to others, the world must stand indebted for the home of freedom disenthralled, regenerated, enlarged, and perpetuated.

“ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

“December 8, 1863.”

#### PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION OF AMNESTY.

SUBJOINED is the text of the Proclamation of Amnesty referred to by President Lincoln in his Message, extracts from which are reprinted in another column.

##### “PROCLAMATION.

“Whereas,—In and by the Constitution of the United States it is provided that the President shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment; and

“Whereas,—A rebellion now exists whereby the loyal State Governments of several States have for a long time been subverted, and many persons have committed and are now guilty of treason against the United States; and

“Whereas,—With reference to the said rebellion and treason, laws have been enacted by Congress declaring forfeitures and confiscation of property and liberation of slaves, all upon terms and conditions therein stated; and also declaring that the President was thereby authorised at any time thereafter, by proclamation, to extend to persons who may have participated in the existing rebellion in any State, or part thereof, pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions and at such times and on such conditions as he may deem expedient for the public welfare; and

“Whereas,—The Congressional declaration for limited and conditional pardon accords with the well-established judicial exposition of the pardoning power; and

“Whereas,—With reference to the said rebellion the President of the United States has issued several Proclamations with provisions in regard to the liberation of slaves; and

“Whereas,—It is now desired by some persons heretofore engaged in the said rebellion to resume their allegiance to the United States, and to inaugurate loyal State Governments within and for their respective States;

“Therefore I, Abraham Lincoln, President

of the United States, do proclaim, declare and make known to all persons who have directly or by implication participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, that a full pardon is hereby granted to them and each of them, with restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves, and in property cases where the rights of third parties shall have intervened, and upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an oath, and thenceforward keep and maintain said oath inviolate, and which oath shall be registered for permanent preservation, and shall be of the tenor and effect following, to wit:

“I, —, do solemnly swear in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder, and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all Acts of Congress passed during the existing rebellion with reference to slaves, so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void by Congress or by the decision of the Supreme Court, and that I will in like manner abide and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing rebellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court. So help me God.”

“The persons excepted from the benefits of the foregoing provisions are all who are or shall have been civil or diplomatic officers or agents of the so-called Confederate Government; all who have left judicial stations under the United States to aid the rebellion; all who are or shall have been military or naval officers of said so-called Confederate Government above the rank of colonel in the army, of lieutenant in the navy; all who left seats in the United-States' Congress to aid the rebellion.

“All who resigned commissions in the army or navy of the United States, and afterwards aided the rebellion, and all who have engaged in any way in treating coloured persons, or white persons in charge of such, otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war, who have been found in the United-States' service as soldiers, seamen, or in any other capacity.

“And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known, that whenever, in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina, a number of persons, not less than one-tenth in number of the votes cast in such States, at the Presidential election of the year of our Lord 1860, each having taken the oath aforesaid, and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election law of the State existing immediately before the so-called act of secession, and excluding all others, shall re-establish a State Government, which shall be republican, and in nowise contravening said oath, such shall be recognised as the true Government of the State, and the State shall receive thereunder the benefit of the constitutional provision which declares that

“The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of Government, and shall protect each of them against invasion, on application of the Legis-

lature, or of the Executive when the Legislature cannot be convened, against domestic violence."

"And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known, that any provision which may be adopted by such State Government in reference to the freed people of such State which shall recognise and declare their permanent freedom, provide for their education, and which may yet be consistent, as a temporary arrangement, with their present condition as a labouring, landless, and houseless class, will not be objected to by the National Executive.

"And it is engaged as not improper that, in constructing a loyal State Government in any State, the name of the State, the boundary, the subdivisions, the constitution, and the general code of laws as before the rebellion, be maintained, subject only to the modifications made necessary by the conditions hereinbefore stated, and such others, if any, not contravening said conditions, and which may be deemed expedient by those framing the new State Government,

"To avoid misunderstanding, it may be proper to say that this Proclamation, so far as it relates to State Governments, has no reference to States wherein loyal State Governments have all the while been maintained. And for the same reason it may be proper to further say, that whether members sent to Congress from any State shall be admitted to seats constitutionally, rests exclusively with the respective Houses, and not to any extent with the Executive.

"And still further, that this Proclamation is intended to prevent the people of the States wherein the national authority has been suspended, and loyal State Governments may have been subverted, a mode in and by which the national authority and loyal State Governments may be re-established within said States, or in any of them.

"And while the mode presented is the best the Executive can suggest with his present impressions, it must not be understood that no other possible mode would be acceptable.

"Given under my hand at the City of Washington, the eighth day of December, A.D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States of America the eighty-eighth.

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

"By the President,

"William H. Seward,

"Secretary of State. (L.S.)"

#### THE INSURRECTION IN ST. DOMINGO.

It is exceedingly difficult to obtain accurate information on the subject of the insurrection which broke out in St. Domingo on the 18th of August ult. In our last we gave a brief account of the commencement of the outbreak from the *St. Thomas' Times* of the 12th of September, since when, according to advices *via* Cuba, the insurgents had been nearly overpowered, although not until they had inflicted very severe losses upon the Spaniards. It is quite certain that Santana's betrayal of the Dominicans into the hands of their ancient rulers and tyrants, some three years ago, excited their deep

discontent. We remarked at the time upon the farcical character of the so-called popular demonstration in favour of re-annexation to Spain, and gave an account of the intrigues which resulted in the transfer. The Spanish rule was submitted to sullenly, for the *coup d'état* had been too sudden to permit of any attempt at organized opposition. Disaffection, however, was known to exist. On the frontier, the Spanish soldiers were not unfrequently attacked; and the Spanish Captain-General was not long in finding a pretext for attributing the opposition to Haytian promptings. Parties disaffected to the new order of things, who had sought a refuge within Haytian limits, were claimed as prisoners of war; and on the refusal of the Haytian Government to surrender the refugees, the capital was threatened by a naval armament, and owed its escape from bombardment only to the humane interference of the British Consul. Even as it was, the Haytian authorities were compelled to salute the Spanish flag, after having refused to do so, in the teeth of menaces, conveyed in the most insulting manner. Whether the Haytians fomented the discontent, or aggravated it, seems doubtful. At any rate, no evidence has reached us to warrant the suspicion that such was the case, although it is probable they would not view with displeasure a movement which might result in bringing the Spanish part of the island once more under one government. That the insurgents must have received assistance appears almost certain, or they could not have been so well armed and prepared for assuming the offensive. In their first assaults they were generally the victors. Nearly all the Creoles in the Spanish army made common cause with their brethren; and when the native troops retreated, it was into parts of the country practically inaccessible to their foes, who, moreover, had to suffer the inconveniences attending pursuit in a hostile country, besides the fearful effects of the climate. Decimated by fever and dysentery, the regular troops became demoralized, and nothing but the promptitude with which heavy reinforcements were sent from Cuba enabled Santana to keep foothold. The insurgents harrassed him and his forces incessantly. They compelled the evacuation of Santiago on the 13th of September, and took the city of Puerto Plata on the 4th of October, which has been reduced to ruins. The fort, however, was still held by 1400 Spaniards, who were daily expecting reinforcements. The capital, San Domingo, was invested by them, and General Santana, with only 2000 soldiers, could not move, and was daily suffering heavy losses from the attacks of guerillas. Everywhere the Spanish troops were in a critical position, and notwithstanding some partial successes on their part, the insurrection was said to be gaining



ground. It will thus be seen that the accounts are most conflicting; but it appears clear to us, that as enormous reinforcements can be sent from Cuba and Spain, the insurgents will most likely be overwhelmed at last, and the power of Spain be again asserted over St. Domingo. Eight thousand troops were expected in Cuba, direct from Spain, to be sent against the Dominicans, and a new Captain-General—General Vargas—had been appointed to supersede Santana, against whom the Dominicans were said to be enraged to the highest degree. The coasts of St. Domingo had been declared blockaded, an act necessarily involving an infringement of the sovereign rights of Hayti, in so far as its jurisdiction extends. The Republic possesses many ports, and a commerce by no means inconsiderable, which cannot but suffer serious interruption by a blockade, not to mention that there is danger lest its establishment furnish the Spaniards with any number of pretexts to fasten a quarrel upon the Haytian Government.

We believe this St. Domingo insurrection requires watching, on account of the encroaching tendencies of the Spaniards. When the re-annexation of the eastern part of the island took place, an assurance was extorted from the Spanish Government that Slavery should not be re-established there; but, under military rule, there is no law save that of the stronger party, and the re-establishment of Slavery may be decreed as the penalty of unsuccessful insurrection. There would doubtless be danger in the act, for it would unite all classes in the whole island. Pro-slavery despotism, however, is so blind, so reckless, so vindictive, that no risk will deter it from prosecuting its designs, or from attempting to obtain revenge.

We have already expressed the opinion, that the substantial progress of the people of the island materially depends upon homogeneity of government, and consequently of legislation. Whether the rule be imperial or republican, it should extend over the whole population. No nation divided against itself can stand, any more than we are taught that a divided house can do; and the friends of the negro cannot view without anxiety the disturbing elements which exist in the island of Hayti, and prevent the development of its great resources. It is well known, that in the Eastern district especially, the forest and mineral wealth is almost intact. Its vast prairies teem with animal life; its rivers with most delicious fish; its forests and woods with abundance of game; the bowels of the earth with precious metals and iron ore. But the unsettled state of the frontier terrifies enterprise; capitalists will not invest in any undertaking; and hence the country lies waste; the existing Governments are cramped for means, and the enemies of the African race are furnished with a fresh argu-

ment against negro self-government. Regarded from this point of view, a division of the administration of the island is a serious calamity, as it is a source of weakness, affording to a Power so unscrupulous as Spain a vantage ground, of which a very slender accident alone may enable it to take fatal advantage. Looking to what is passing in the United States, we think the Haytian question cannot long fail to claim the serious attention of the friends of negro emancipation and of European statesmen.

#### OUR CRUISE IN THE "ALABAMA."

A PAMPHLET, bearing the title of "Our Cruise in the Confederate-States' War Steamer *Alabama*," a reprint from the columns of the *South-African Advertiser and Mail* of the 19th Sept. ult., has fallen into our hands. It professes to be a narrative of the doings of the *Alabama*, as recorded in the private journal of one of the officers, the acting master's-mate. No attempt is made to conceal the nature of the enterprise for which the "290" was purchased, nor does it appear that the builders were more ignorant of it than was Captain J. D. Bullock, who had been sent to England by the Confederate-States' Government expressly to effect the purchase of a "war steamer." We are informed that, "accordingly, the No. 290 was built and intended for a Confederate vessel of war." She was "a barque-rigged wooden propeller, of 1040 tons register, and was constructed by the Messrs. Laird of Birkenhead, her main-deck being pierced for twelve guns, and her berth-deck capable of accommodating 120 men. The circumstances under which she slipped out of the Mersey are detailed with minuteness, though briefly; and the fact is broadly stated, that her "unceremonious departure was owing to news having been received, to the effect that the Customs' authorities had orders to board and detain" her that same morning. She sailed at 9.20 A.M. on the 29th July 1862, under the pretext of "a trial trip," having a company of ladies and gentlemen on board, to give a colour thereto. In the evening the visitors were transferred to a steam-tug, the "290" being then in Moelfra Bay. Here she remained until 2 A.M. of the 31st, when she got under weigh, ostensibly bound to Nassau, Bahamas. Off the Giants' Causeway she hove to, and Captain Bullock was landed, after which she once more made sail, and reached Porto Praya, Terceira, (Azores,) on the 10th August. The same afternoon the officials came off, and in reply to their questions, they were informed that the "290" was the "steamer *Barcelona*, from London, fifteen days out, bound to Havana, and intended for the Spanish Government, for



the war with Mexico." This broad lie succeeded in deceiving the officials, and the vessel, now "under command of Captain M. J. Butcher, late of the Cunard service."

"Our object in going there—that is, to Terceira," says the narrator—"was to obtain the necessary arms, ammunition, &c., requisite for a vessel of war. England's proclamation of neutrality prevented the guns, &c., being placed on board in Liverpool. Skill and secrecy of no inconsiderable degree were required to escape the vigilance of the Yankees, who, through the agency of their spies, were quite *au fait* with regard to Confederate affairs in England."

The escape of the "290" from the *Tuscarora* is next recounted, and then the arrival of the *Agrippina*, of London, Captain McQueen, with a portion of the armament of the pirate vessel, followed by that of the screw-steamer *Bahama*, Captain Tessier, having on board Captain Semmes and officers of the Confederate-States' steamer *Sumter*, and additional stores, besides two thirty-two pounders. On the 22nd, the "290," taking in coal, "dodged slowly round the island" until the following evening, when she anchored in Angra Bay; and on Sunday, the 24th, Captain Semmes "read his commission, and formally took command of the Confederate-States' steamer *Alabama*, eight guns." Her crew now consisted of twenty-six officers, including commander, and eighty-five men, and on the 25th she commenced her piratical course.

Making use chiefly of the British flag, as a decoy, and sometimes of the French and the Dutch, the *Alabama* entrapped vessel after vessel, calling herself by any name but her own. The narrative of the acting master's mate extends over a period of more than twelve months, namely, from the 25th of August 1862 to the 16th of September 1863, when she anchored, for the second time, in St. Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope. During this period we find her assuming the following names: "the *Iroquois*, the *Racehorse*, the *Ticonderago*, the *Wyoming*, H. M.'s steamer *Petrel*,\* and the *Dakotah*." She captured and burnt her first prize, the *Ochmulgee*, whaler, on the 5th September 1862, from which time, to the 5th August 1863, she destroyed by fire fifty-six United-States' vessels, of various sizes, carrying cargoes more or less valuable. One of her earliest exploits was the burning of the *Brilliant*, on the 3rd October 1862, bound to Liverpool from New York, laden with corn and flour. "It seemed," says the narrator, "a fearful thing to

burn such a cargo as the *Brilliant* had, when I thought how the operatives in the cotton districts would have danced with joy had they it shared amongst them." Notwithstanding this mild protest, the writer records the destruction of other corn and flour-laden vessels, and on the 9th October, one David White, a slave of one of the passengers, was taken from on board the ship *Tonawanda*, grain-laden, bound to Liverpool from Philadelphia. On assuming command of the *Alabama* Captain Semmes made a speech to his crew, in which he informed them that "his principal object was to cripple the commerce of the enemy; that he was not going to fight a 50-gun ship, but as soon as they had become perfect in the use of their weapons, he would give them an opportunity to show the world what they were made of."

The pirate captain has certainly kept his word, and "the world" will not hesitate to designate his deeds as among some of the most lawless ever committed by a buccaneer. It had been the intention "to astonish the enemy in New-York harbour, and to destroy their vessels in their own water." This, we are told, was "the darling wish of all on board," but the design was frustrated by a want of coals. Only for the failure of fuel, there is little room to doubt but that, in the month of November 1862, New York would have been partly destroyed by this reckless rover.

It may be difficult to prove a guilty knowledge of the true character of the "290," on the part of her constructors, but there can exist no moral doubt of the fact. The same remark applies to the *Alexandra*, and to the other piratical craft furnished to the Confederate agents by certain British ship-builders, to their lasting disgrace. How far our Government, which has shewn that it could act promptly and resolutely enough on the occasion, may have been culpable of remissness in the case of the "290," and thereby facilitated her escape, we need not now stay to inquire. We believe it is generally admitted that had it acted somewhat less leisurely, she could not have evaded the Act which has since been brought to bear against her compeers. Once out, something might have been done to prevent British officers from paying the pirate and his crew "official" visits, as we are informed was the case from the flag-ship, when the "290" anchored in Port Royal harbour, Jamaica, on the 20th January 1863. Yet more reprehensible appears to have been the conduct of the Governor of Martinique, to whose advice and interference, as well as to the aid afforded her by the French gunboat *Fata*, the "290" "owed her escape from the United-States' steamer *San Jacinto*." We

\* The latter name was used to deceive the United-States' steamer *Hatteras*, which the "290" sunk off Galveston, on the 11th January 1863.—(Ed. A.S.R.)

may hope, however, that her desperate career, and that of her sister-pirates, is almost at an end, and that the last of her class has sailed from a British port.

### BRITISH ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENTS.

WE resume our record of these movements, the last having been published in our November Number.

During the last few days of October, and the first few days of November, Mr. Washington Wilks addressed meetings in several of the principal towns of Bedfordshire, to advocate the claims of the United-States' Government to the sympathy of the British public for its anti-slavery action. At Dunstable and Luton the meetings were very large, and all the resolutions proposed were carried unanimously.

On Thursday evening, 29th of October, Captain Chester, of a coloured Pennsylvania Company, lectured on the American crisis at the rooms of the *Emancipation Society*, the Treasurer, W. T. Malleson, Esq., in the chair.

On Tuesday evening, the 3rd of November, a public meeting was held at the Congregational Chapel, Dulwich, convened by a number of gentlemen resident in the locality, who entertain the opinion that the only means by which the African slave-trade can be entirely suppressed must be found in the establishment of a legitimate trade, and who are, consequently, anxious to develop the resources of the country, and especially to encourage the growth of cotton. Though the night was very wet, some 600 people assembled. The Rev. J. W. Richardson, the minister of the place, took the chair, and warmly advocated the object in view. He was followed by Mr. William Craft, who, in a long and interesting address, related the particulars of his recent visit to the King of Dahomey, and told of his willingness, and of the chiefs of the country, to stimulate the production of cotton for the European market. Mr. Craft said he was convinced the king and people of Dahomey did not hunt slaves and sell them out of love to the abominable system, but for profit; and that if the cotton trade should prove to be more advantageous to them, they would gradually give up the inhuman traffic. He stated that he had resolved to return to Dahomey to assist in bringing about the greatly-to-be-desired change. At the close of Mr. Craft's speech, Mr. Digby Seymour, Q.C., M.P., moved a resolution thanking him for his speech, and pledging the meeting to give all the support in their power to his mission. Mr. Seymour strongly urged that it was the

duty of the Government to locate efficient consuls at every available place on the West Coast of Africa, to assist in developing legitimate trade. The Rev. Dr. Massie seconded and the Consul-General of Liberia and Mr. D. Chinery supported it.

On Wednesday evening, the 4th, a meeting was held in Britannia Chapel, Packington Street, Islington, in support of the cause of emancipation in America, Mr. F. W. Chesson occupying the chair. There was a numerous attendance. Mr. G. Thompson delivered an address, and was followed by Mr. Webber, the Rev. Charles Hibbert, Mr. E. Burr, Mr. Insell, and other gentlemen. A resolution thanking the lecturer and expressing sympathy with his views was unanimously adopted.

On Monday evening, the 9th, Mr. George Thompson lectured on the American war at the Victoria Rooms, Ryde, Major Vane in the chair, to a large auditory.

On the evening of the 11th, a meeting, convened by the *Emancipation Society*, was held at the Spa-Fields' Chapel, on the subject of Slavery in the Southern States of the American Union, and its connection with the war now raging there, E. S. Beales, Esq., in the chair. The Rev. Sella Martin, Dr. Tomkins, G. Thompson, and Mr. Lyndale were the speakers, and the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

"That this meeting recognises in the rebellion of the slaveholders in the Southern States of America an attempt to found a Government upon a principle which the civilized world has long pronounced infamous and inimical to the rights and interests of mankind; that this meeting therefore regards all attempts to afford assistance or support to the Southern Confederacy, by supplying ships, arms, or money, as an offence against morality, and worthy of indignant reprobation; and calls upon Her Majesty's ministers to frustrate, by all the means within their power, the designs of those persons who attempt to equip vessels of war, and by other means offend against the provisions of the Foreign Enlistment Act, in support of an unholy war against human liberty and constitutional Government; and records its high satisfaction at the steps lately taken by the Government in this matter."

The Assembly Room of the Town Hall, Brighton, was filled on Friday night, the 20th, by an audience assembled to receive a deputation from the *London Emancipation Society*. Alderman Cox presided, and expressed, on behalf of Mr. White, M.P., the regret of that hon. gentleman that another engagement prevented him from being present. After speeches from Mr. John Hilton, jun., Mr. R. J. Noble, Mr. Washington Wilks, and W. Coningham, Esq., M.P., a resolution in favour of the North was proposed and seconded, Dr. Arnold Ruge making a very interesting speech in its support. Mr.



Brown said he had come prepared to move an amendment, but after the convincing statement he had heard, he should not do so; and the resolution was carried, with only one dissentient, amidst much enthusiasm.

On Tuesday evening, the 24th, a public meeting, under the auspices of the *Emancipation Society*, was held in the Friends' Meeting House, St. Martin's-lane, George Thompson, Esq., in the chair. The building was crowded. The Rev. Sella Martin delivered an able address on "the peculiar institution," in the course of which he drew some touching pictures of slave life, and depicted the social cruelty and immorality which were the inevitable fruits of the system of Slavery. The Chairman followed with an eloquent exposition of the cotton question in its present aspects, contending that, in the course of a short time, free-labour would render England entirely independent of the raw produce grown in the Slave States. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Martin, moved by Mr. Dell, and seconded by Mr. Johnson, a gentleman of colour, and formerly a slave in the South.

On Wednesday evening the 25th, a crowded public meeting of the inhabitants of Greenwich was held in the hall of the Literary Institution, to consider the question of negro emancipation in connection with the present civil war in America. The chair was occupied by the Rev. B. Davies, of Greenwich, who strongly advocated the necessity of extending the utmost sympathy to the Federal Government, as the success of the South must tend to extend and perpetuate the cause of Slavery. Mr. W. Wilks reviewed the origin and progress of the present American struggle, which was commenced by the South in order to found a constitution upon the institution of Slavery. The speaker replied very effectively to the speech recently made by Alderman Salomons, and said that of all men the Hebrew should be the most disposed to sympathize with the negro, and to withhold all countenance from his oppressor. Mr. Russell Bransby moved, and Mr. Tanner seconded, a resolution expressive of sympathy with the Northern States of America in their present struggle to put down a rebellion having for its object the perpetuation of Slavery. Mr. Smith, of Deptford, proposed an amendment in favour of neutrality, and, after a discussion, the original resolution was carried by an immense majority.

On the 26th, at Exeter, a lecture on the American war, by the Rev. R. H. Lewell, of Exmouth.

On the same evening a public meeting was held in connection with the Pendleton Mechanics' Institution. There was a numerous attendance. The chair was taken by Mr. T. B. Potter, president of the *Manchester*

*Union and Emancipation Society*, who delivered a speech, in which he reviewed the very energetic and successful labours of that Society, and contended that loyalty to the English throne was not incompatible with admiration for the institutions of America. Mr. Samuel Pope then delivered an eloquent address, and Messrs. E. O. Greening, W. J. Williams, and other gentlemen, also addressed the meeting.

On the 2nd December ultimo, a meeting in the Pavement Chapel, New North Road, an address by the Rev. Sella Martin, on "the condition of the slaves in the South, and the treatment of the negroes in the North," the Rev. Mr. Herschell in the chair.

On the same evening, a lecture was delivered in the New Hall, Leicester, by a Mr. J. H. Smith, an agent of the Southern Confederacy, and a slave-owner, who undertook to refute the statements made by Mr. Cobden in his speech at Rochdale. The members of the *Leicester Emancipation Society* mustered in force, and A. Kellet, Esq., member of the Emancipation Committee, was elected chairman. The principal points were the doctrine of State rights and sovereignty, as constituting the right of Secession, the heroism displayed by the South in the war, and the advantage which would accrue to England were the South to trade with England direct, instead of consigning their goods through the North.

At the close of the lecture, Mr. S. Barnes, chairman of the *Emancipation Society*, complained that the lecturer had ignored Slavery as the great disturbing element in American affairs, and challenged him to a discussion upon that point. Mr. Bramley followed with a series of question, and a general catechetical discussion followed, which was brought to a conclusion by Mr. T. Emery, who proposed the following resolution: "That as the action of Secession turned upon the election of an anti-slavery President, and as the issue for which the South took up arms was manifestly for the extension and perpetuation of Slavery, this meeting heartily approves of the course pursued by England in refusing to recognise a Confederacy whose policy comprises the 'sum of all villainies.'" The Rev. J. H. Howell seconded the motion. The resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority, but few hands being held up against it.

On Tuesday evening, the 5th, in the same city, and in the same hall, a meeting, convened by the *Local Emancipation Society*, to consider the American question. The Rev. Joseph Howell occupied the chair. The chairman referred to a speech in favour of the South, which had been recently delivered in the town by Mr. J. H. Smith. With reference to the *Emancipation Society*, he said that it was not in the broadest sense

a political society, for it numbered among its enrolled members men of all shades of political opinions. The Society, comparatively regardless of the politics involved in the hostilities with America, had for its great and avowed end the abolition of Slavery.

Mr. M. D. Conway, of Virginia, then addressed the meeting.

Alderman Briggs moved: "That this meeting pledges itself to lend its influence to support Her Majesty's Government in its neutral policy, inasmuch as the Southern Confederacy is founded not only to perpetuate, but to extend Slavery, according to the 4th article in the Southern Constitution, and it is utterly repugnant to the feelings of Englishmen to acknowledge or sympathize with any Government formed upon such an unholy principle."

Mr. J. F. Winks seconded the motion, which was carried with only two dissentients.

Mr. Creak moved: "That this meeting desires to express its entire approval of the object and proceedings of the *Leicester Emancipation Society*, and hopes that it will persevere in using the most vigorous efforts to diffuse information on the great question of American negro Slavery in this locality."

The resolution, having been seconded by Mr. T. Cook, was carried unanimously.

Under the title of "Cotton not King," Mr. George Thompson delivered an address at the Whittington Club, on the same evening, Mr. Justin McCarthy presiding. The lecture was very able and exhaustive, and set forth with exceeding clearness that one result of the present contest in the United States would be to render Great Britain independent of slave-grown cotton in future.

On Tuesday evening, the 8th, a lecture, at the Lecture Hall, Liverpool Buildings, Bishopsgate, on "America and Slavery," by Mr. John Richardson, C.C. The chair was occupied by Edmond Beales, Esq.

On the same evening, a lecture, in the Fetter-Lane Congregational Chapel, delivered by Captain Chester, a coloured officer of the Federal army, on the American war, and Slavery as its cause. Dr. F. Tomkins in the chair. The following resolution was passed unanimously: "That in the opinion of this meeting, the Southern States now in rebellion against the United States of America, are unworthy of the sympathy of Englishmen, because they are fighting for the perpetuation and extension of Slavery. That the speedy downfall of the slaveholders' confederacy is a consummation devoutly to be wished; and that our cordial thanks are due to Captain Chester, bidding him God-speed in his able advocacy of the freedom of his suffering race."

On the 11th, a public meeting of the citizens of Glasgow was held in the City Hall, for

the purpose of hearing the Rev. Dr. Massie, of London, recently from America, and the Rev. Sella Martin, of London, an American slave, deliver addresses on the "Origin of the War and the Right of Secession," and expose the fallacies contained in the recent lecture by Mr. James Spence. There were upwards of 4000 persons present. Amongst those on the platform were—Rev. Dr. Massie, Rev. A. B. Paton, Rev. P. McLachlan, Rev. H. Calderwood, Rev. W. D. Henderson, Rev. W. C. Smith, Rev. H. Riddell, Rev. J. W. Davidson, Colonel Campbell, ex-Governor of Sierra Leone; Councillors Moir, Govan, Neill, Stewart, Alexander, and James Thompson, &c.

On the motion of Councillor Alexander, George Coventry Dick, Esq., was called to occupy the chair.

Dr. Massie, in the course of his speech, said that he had stood upon the plantation of the present General E. Lee, and conversed with his slaves, and one of them, a female of eighty years of age, assured him that she herself had been lashed with a whip by the hand of Lee himself.

The Rev. Sella Martin next addressed the meeting. He said that when Mr. Spence was speaking of the constitution it was remarkable he did not call James Madison the father of the constitution. He, in all his writings, taught the view that the constitution was not a conglomeration, as the articles of confederation, but a single instrument constituting a nation; that it did not bind States together as by an alliance, but fixed them as by the fire of patriotism and justice. Nor did Mr. Spence call Daniel Webster the expounder of the constitution, who said that the constitution was an instrument producing nationality, and not confederation. Mr. Martin then asked his audience to look at what was meant by Secession, and see its absurdity. The Southern States were now accumulating a debt which might be as large as the debt of Great Britain. They came to British markets to borrow money. Well, suppose, after they were recognised, they all dropped off and seceded except two, and these two again passed an ordinance, and seceded from one another, who would pay the debt? After enlarging upon his argument, the speaker drew a vivid picture of the condition of the negro in the North as compared with his state in the South, for the purpose of rebutting Mr. Spence's argument that the negro had no sympathy or encouragement in the North, at least no more than in the South.

The Rev. H. Calderwood moved the following resolution: "That, viewing human Slavery as utterly abhorrent to the divine will, and an outrage upon a helpless and unoffending people, this meeting condemns the present attempt of the Southern States of



America to form a Confederacy, with the avowed object of extending and perpetuating that debasing system, and to establish a Government—for the first time in the history of the world—founded on the execrable doctrine of the right to enslave their fellow-men."

Mr. James Wilkinson seconded the resolution.

Mr. Andrew Harley moved the following amendment: "That in the opinion of this meeting war in America is an injury to the world, and that the present aspect of the conflict affords no hope of its early termination, unless by means of the moral influence of Europe. We therefore earnestly pray that the Government of this country will enter into communication with the European Powers to advise with them as to the best means of bringing about peace."

The amendment was subsequently withdrawn, and the resolution adopted.

On the motion of the Rev. W. C. Smith, seconded by Councillor Govan, the following resolution was also passed: "That the meeting resolves, in accordance with the foregoing resolution, to memorialize Her Majesty's Government to continue their neutral policy of non-interference, and continue to lend all their moral support to the abolition of Slavery."

On the 14th, a lecture on the same subject, at the Myddelton Hall, Islington, by Mr. Washington Wilks, in place of Mr. G. Thompson, who had been obliged to relinquish his intention, Edmund Beales, Esq., in the chair.

The Hon. M. J. Scovell, recently elected in the Republican interest to the Senate of New Jersey, was introduced to the meeting. He briefly but very effectively expressed his gratification at the manifestation of English sympathy with the Union, and declared the determination of the Government and people that either the Union or Slavery should go down for ever, but not the Union. His remarks were warmly applauded.

At Hull, on the 23rd, the second of a series of lectures in connection with *Hull Union and Emancipation Society*, was delivered at the Music Hall by the Rev. Sella Martin. The subject was "The condition of the Slave in the South; the treatment of the Negro in the North; and the relation of both to the present war in America." The chair was taken by the Sheriff, E. Davis, Esq. A resolution was then passed expressing the satisfaction of the meeting with President Lincoln's Administration, and hoping that the struggle now going on between the North and South would ultimately end in peace and union, along with the utter extinction of negro Slavery.

## THE SLAVE-TRADE TO PERU.

IN answer to inquiries, official and private, respecting the measures which have been taken to put a stop to the new trade in slaves which has sprung up to the coast of Peru from the Polynesian group of islands, Earl Russell states that communications have been made to the Peruvian Government, and that the latter has promised to suppress it without delay. Some time must necessarily elapse before the results of this summary interference become apparent. In the meanwhile, the subject must not be lost sight of. In this spirit we append an extract from a recent Sydney paper, which will satisfy our readers that the case is as atrocious as any on record.

### THE PERUVIAN SLAVE-TRADE.

(*Sydney Morning Herald*, Oct. 21st, 1863.)

"The following letter, bearing date Mangaia, South Pacific, July 1st—depicting some frightful scenes connected with this inhumane traffic—appeared in the *Herald* of 13th instant. It is from the pen of the Rev. W. Wyatt Gill, one of the Missionaries who recently sailed from this port for Tahiti. Mr. Gill writes:

"You have probably heard of the doings of the Callao slavers at Savage Island, Danger Island, Rakaanga, and especially at Penrhyns. Five of our teachers are sold into hopeless Slavery; and nearly 600 natives of the various islands where I have recently been in the *John Williams*. We hear that many thousands of the peaceful inhabitants of these islands have been deceived by these men-stealers, and sold into captivity on the Peruvian coast. From the island of Mangaia five have been stolen. On Sabbath, January 25th ultimo, a vessel hove in sight, and was at first taken for the Missionary barque. A canoe, paddled by eight natives, put off. On nearing the vessel they discovered their mistake; but upon being assured that it was an American vessel, the natives foolishly made fast their canoe, and five of them clambered on deck. Drugged spirits were given to each of them, and they stood looking vacantly over the ship's side at their friends. The three below now found that the rope had been cut by the white men, and fearing for the safety of their companions on deck, they shouted to them to throw themselves overboard and swim to the canoe. One of the five had sense enough left to attempt to pull off his shirt, but was kept prisoner by two white men. The slaver immediately made all sail, and was speedily out of sight. One of the five stolen is the favourite son and intended successor of the king, an old man upwards of 70.

"It appears that six Peruvian slavers have been taken, and condemned by the French authorities at Tahiti, and one by the natives of Rapa.

"At the Marquesas twenty-four poor heathen went on board one of the slavers, supposing her to be an American whaler, and intending to pilot her in. To some of them drugged spirits were given. Others were invited to go below to

an entertainment which was liberally spread out; but as soon as a good number were below, the fatal iron grating was fastened down upon them! The few left in their senses on deck struggled for sweet liberty: one of them sent the blade of a knife through the shoulder of a sailor. Five, however, managed to escape: nineteen are in Slavery. The poor heathen registered a vow that they would devour the crew of the first vessel they get into their power. It seems that the steward and another white man on board were opposed to taking the natives by force. The enraged captain put them on shore, in irons, on one of the most savage islands of the group, with strict injunctions to the natives to kill and eat them. Happily the poor fellows managed to escape and got to Tahiti, where they told their tale to the French authorities.

"Another painful occurrence was related to me by the commander of the French steamer the *Latouche Treville*, who has had the good fortune to capture one of the Peruvian slavers. It relates to the proceedings of the Peruvian slavers at Papahui, or Easter Island, the natives of which are still heathen. Six slavers lay off the island at the same time; but not being successful in their endeavours to decoy the natives, the masters resolved upon a more enterprising line of action. The crews of the six vessels were put under the command of the senior captain, and pulled ashore in their boats all well armed. Quantities of biscuit and cloth were scattered on the beach to attract the poor natives. About 500 of them came to divide the spoil. At length the appointed signal was given by the firing of the senior captain's pistol. The whole body of buccaneers now fired upon the unsuspecting multitude. Ten were killed and numbers wounded. A rush was now made by the invaders to cut off the retreat of the affrighted and defenceless natives. Two hundred captives were secured and put on board the boats. These were equally divided among the six vessels. As the boats pulled along shore, two lads were seen resting upon a point of rock. When the natives were scattered by the firing, they betook themselves to the sea and swam for their lives. The slavers called to the lads to come into their boat, but as they did not seem inclined to obey, they were deliberately shot dead. As the boats passed on, numbers of men, women, and children, were observed to be hiding behind the overhanging rocks. These were all shot. Next day they set sail with their poor captives. One of the captains overhauling those who fell to his lot, considered that one poor old woman would not repay the cost of her keep, and therefore ordered her to be thrown overboard.

"And then as to their fate in Peru. They are employed in all kinds of work. On one plantation seventy-five died in three weeks from the effects of hard work, bad food, change of climate, and brutal treatment. Some are employed in digging guano in the Chin Chin Islands (I think they are called). These poor creatures are prevented from resting during the day by a collar with spikes. They cannot run away, as their legs are chained together. They are fed on rice of the worst description. If any die, a hole is dug in the guano and the body thrown in. Many

of the poor Chinamen who preceded them were driven to commit suicide by ripping up their own bowels. As the Peruvians dare not now get slaves from China, they are trying the experiment of getting them from a much nearer source—by depopulating the South-Sea Islands.

"I have not drawn upon fancy for these particulars. During our late visit to the colonies one of the Callao slaving captains called here, sat at the table where I now write, to make a false entry in the shipping list. He wanted 200 men, but failed. He passed on to Atica, where he got one of the principal chiefs on board with his wife, and gave them a good dinner. He then produced bags of gold, containing (as he said) 3000 dollars, to be the property of the said chief if he would fill up his ship for him with 200 slaves. The chief's eyes were now opened. To secure his own safety, he said that he would consider of it. He got ashore all right; but forbade his people to go. One luckless wight swam off, little dreaming what he was doing. The barque sailed for Apia, where I saw her on the 8th of February last. She afterwards filled up with poor captives. In April last, Captain Nicholls, of the American whaler *Rainbow*, of New Bedford, saw her at anchor at Sunday Island. Through disease, 130 had died, so that only seventy remained alive at that time.

"These are sad sober facts. The question now is, are these things to be permitted to continue? Are the unoffending, christianized, and, to some extent, civilized inhabitants of these islands, to fall a prey to these horrid dealers in human flesh? Amongst the captives are five coloured preachers of the Gospel. Unless the matter be speedily dealt with the captives must all perish. In two or three years hence not one will be left to tell the tale of woe. Natives of the tropics for the most part, and unaccustomed to labour, they cannot long endure the barbarous treatment they receive. The silver and quicksilver mines, as well as the guano islands of Peru, will continually require fresh supplies of labourers. Are these fair islands to be depopulated for the purpose? Is the legitimate and beneficial traffic in cocoa-nut oil, &c., which has of late years sprung up with the Australian colonies, to be destroyed by this new species of slave-trade? The French authorities at Tahiti have acted vigorously in the matter. Will the English and colonial Executives be unconcerned spectators? The king of this island appeals to England for the rescue of his beloved son from Slavery of the worst kind. Would not his Excellency the Governor of New South Wales be justified in forwarding a protest to the Peruvian Government without delay, accompanied by a demand for the liberation of the captives?

"I trust that this matter will meet with the attention it deserves from every friend of liberty and humanity, and that no time will be lost in endeavouring to rescue the poor captives."

In the meanwhile, the Peruvian Government has given the most positive assurances that the natives of Polynesia who have been taken to Peru shall be restored to their country, in Peruvian vessels, and that an



arrangement of this kind has already been carried into effect; and further, that in order to provide against future contingencies, a Consul-General has been established at Tahiti.

### SEIZURE OF ANOTHER CONFEDERATE STEAMER.

THE *Glasgow Emancipation Society* lately sent a memorial to Earl Russell, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, regarding an iron screw steamer, at one time named the *Canton*, but now named the *Pampero*. The memorial stated that this vessel had been launched from the building-yard of Messrs. James and George Thompson, and was being rapidly fitted out in Glasgow harbour; that she was currently, and the memorialists believed truly, reported to have been constructed for the Confederate Government; that she was of a similar construction to the *Alabama*, and, like her, intended to prey upon the merchant-ships of the Northern States; that she was fitted up with gun-ports, ring bolts for guns, &c., although the gun-ports had since been filled up, and the fittings removed, and these things disguised as much as possible, and that the Society therefore requested his lordship would cause a satisfactory investigation to be made into the character, ownership, and destination of this vessel, with the view that, if found to be of the description and for the purpose they believed her to be, she might be prevented from leaving Britain. The following reply was received from Earl Russell:

"Foreign Office, Nov. 7, 1863.

"GENTLEMEN,—I am desired by Earl Russell to acknowledge the receipt of the memorial dated the 4th inst., and signed by you on behalf of the *Glasgow Emancipation Society*, requesting the interference of Her Majesty's Government to prevent the departure from that port of the steam-vessel *Canton*, until an investigation has taken place as to her character, ownership, and destination; and I am to acquaint you in reply that the attention of Her Majesty's Government has already been directed to this matter.

"I am, Gentlemen,

"Your most obedient servant,

"E. HAMMOND.

"W. Smeal, Esq., and A. Paton, Esq.,

"Secretaries to Glasgow Emancipation Society."

The Collector of Customs within the last few days received instructions from the Lord Advocate of Scotland to seize the screw steamer *Pampero*, under the Foreign Enlistment Act (59th George III. cap. 69). The *Pampero* was recently launched from the ship-building yard of Messrs. Thompson, near Glasgow, and was being fitted out in the harbour. In consequence, however, of communications to Government, Her Majesty's

gunboat *Goldfinch* arrived in the Clyde about three weeks ago, for the purpose of preventing the vessel going to sea. Meanwhile, the Procurator-Fiscal of the Sheriffs' Court has been busy taking precognitions in the case, and the seizure of the vessel appears to be the result.

### ANOTHER CONFEDERATE CRUISER AFLOAT.

NOTWITHSTANDING the watchfulness of the Federal emissaries, and of the agents of the British Government at the different ship-building ports of Great Britain and Scotland, and the vigorous efforts of the Government to stop all suspicious vessels from leaving British ports, the Southerners still manage to get vessels of first-class build and rapid sailing and steaming powers to sea. Shortly before sunset on the evening of the 25th Nov. ulto., a large screw steamer was observed steering into the roadstead of Calais, and eventually took up an anchorage. As soon as she came to anchor, she was boarded by the Custom-house boat, and it was then ascertained that she was a new screw steamer, with three masts, barque-rigged, and apparently very fast. As far as could be observed, the vessel was in an incomplete state, although her upper works were evidently finished, and her sides pierced for eight guns. Her captain gave her name as the "*Rappahannock*," and although he did not distinctly say so, yet he intimated that he had recently left the Clyde. On the ship's nationality being inquired for, the Captain at once hoisted the Confederate flag, and this being apparently sufficient for the French officials, they at once left. The action of the French Government is looked upon with much anxiety amongst the American captains and ship-owners.

The following is the copy of a letter received on the 28th by Captain Halstead, R.N., secretary of Lloyd's, from an agent at Calais:

"Calais, Nov. 26.

"SIR,—I beg to inform you that about three o'clock this afternoon a large three-masted screw steamer named the *Rappahannock*, Captain Campbell master, entered Calais harbour. She bears the colours of the Confederate States, has two funnels, is fore and aft rigged, and is pierced for eight guns. The vessel is in an unfinished state, and has a number of carpenters and other workpeople on board. She is at present detained by the French Custom authorities. She left Sheerness yesterday."

A letter from Calais in the *Presse* gives the subjoined details:

"A large screw steamer called the *Rappahannock* has arrived in this port. She carries the flag of the Southern States of America (white, with a red corner, and with a blue St. Andrew's cross and the thirteen stars), and a

pennant of the same colours. This steamer was in the roadstead from midnight waiting to receive on board fifteen young Americans who have been residing here for more than two months, and who are to serve as her officers. These persons had embarked on board a fishing-boat which they had hired to convey them to Boulogne, as they told the master of her, in order to conceal their project and avoid the police. When once they were outside the port, however, they ordered him to put them on board a vessel from which rockets were being fired, which was the signal agreed upon. The master of the boat in alarm called out loudly for assistance from some other boats near, and with their help he returned into port, where he landed his passengers, who were much annoyed at what had occurred. The *Rappahannock*, which has been purchased for the Confederate Government, was an English vessel undergoing repair at Sheerness. She left that port under pretence of trying her machinery, and taking with her as crew the mechanics and ship carpenters who were at work on board. Once at sea the English flag was replaced by that of the Southern States. She has not yet any guns on board, but is pierced for eight of heavy metal. The authorities of Calais having applied to Paris have received orders to allow the *Rappahannock* to leave when she thinks proper. A part of the crew have arrived by the steamer from Dover. The appearance of a Northern cruiser, which is now in the Channel, is looked for."

The *Rappahannock* appears to be identical with Her Majesty's late ship *Victor*, 1000 tons burthen, 6 guns, and 350 horse power, which was recently sold to private persons by the Admiralty authorities. She was said to be intended for the China trade, but on the Admiralty discovering their mistake, she was ordered to be stopped. The order, however, unfortunately arrived a few hours too late, and the vessel has now appeared at Calais under the circumstances above narrated.

The most searching investigation has been made by the Lords of the Admiralty into all the circumstances attending her equipment, fitting out, and departure from the Nore. As the *Victor*, she was attached to the Chatham Steam Reserve squadron. The correspondence which has taken place between the officials of the dockyards and the Board of Admiralty has been conducted, and is still being carried on, with the greatest possible secrecy, but some important circumstances have become known with respect to the transaction. The result of the investi-

gation which has taken place has been to entirely exonerate the officials at Chatham dockyard from having, in the remotest degree, been connected with the illegal proceedings, as their responsibility ceased the moment that vessel was sold out of the Steam Reserve, and the order was received from the Admiralty for her to pass into the hands of the parties by whom she was purchased. From inquiries instituted, it would seem that the *Victor* was purchased by a London firm, trading, as would now appear, under an assumed name, and that several of the Government mechanics, if not under the express orders, at all events with the cognizance of certain of the officials, were illegally allowed to be employed in assisting to equip the vessel, several of the number, connected, it is asserted, chiefly with the engineer department, proceeding from Sheerness dockyard to Calais on board the *Victor* when she escaped from the Nore. The whole of the hands who were proved to have taken any part in the breach of the neutrality laws by assisting in the equipment of the *Rappahannock*, as well as the men who proceeded to Calais with that vessel, have been dismissed from Sheerness dockyard ostensibly for being absent from their duty without leave, but in reality for the part they were proved to have taken in the matter. The conduct of certain of the dockyard officials, who, there is reason to believe, allowed themselves to become implicated in the fitting out of the *Victor* after she had ceased to be a Government vessel, is now under the consideration of the Admiralty, and a rumour is current at Chatham that two of the number, both of whom hold responsible offices in Sheerness dockyard, would be called on to resign their appointments to avoid their dismissal from Her Majesty's service. With regard to other vessels attached to the Chatham Steam Reserve which are ordered to be sold out of her service, such precautions are directed to be taken that no apprehension need be entertained of any of the number falling into the hands of persons who will use them so as to again violate the neutrality laws. It is understood also that the names of persons in the crews of the *Alabama*, *Georgia*, and *Florida*, who belong to the Royal Naval Reserve, have been struck off the list, with the loss of all pay and pensions, and perpetual exclusion from the service.